Use of satellite phones by passengers

3284. SHRI YADLAPATIVENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether satellite phones provided at Zonal and Divisional Headquarters can also be used by railway passengers;

(b) whether this facility is further proposed to be introduced on railway stations also; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) Satellite telephones are being provided with Zonal and Divisional Railway Headquarters exclusively for establishing communication from any accident/disaster site, for use of Railway administration as well as stranded passengers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Stainless steel coaches in Rajdhani Express

3285. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that light weight coaches made of stainless steel offering advanced safety and passenger comfort would be attached to Rajdhani Express trains;

(b) whether these are built by RCF, Kapurthala on technology transfer; if so, details of technology transfer; and

(c) whether these coaches are fire-proof and would eliminate the train burning incidents as had the case of Frontier Mail at Ludhiana in May last?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways entered into a contract with a German Company M/s Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB, now ALSTOM LHB) in 1995 for transfer of technology for manufacture of light weight, high speed coaches in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala.